

What is claimed:

- 1 1. A data processing apparatus having a user interface assisting in searching for
2 information from an ordered list in a data array, the apparatus comprising:
3 an array scroller responsive to user actuation; and
4 a helper character-generator, actuated by continued user actuation of the array
5 scroller, the helper character generator being operative to display a helper character
6 representative of a portion in the list being scrolled.
- 1 2. The data processing apparatus of claim 1 wherein,
2 the helper character shows additional helper characters by unactuating the array
3 scroller, then reactuating the array scroller.
- 1 3. The computing apparatus of claim 1 wherein,
2 the helper character display corresponds to a location on a GUI display.
- 1 4. The apparatus of claim 1, comprising at least one of the following: a handheld
2 device, a mobile telephone, an Internet-enable device with a browser.
- 1 5. The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the item is selected from at least one of the
2 following: alpha-numerical characters, pictographs, letters in a name, prefixes in telephone
3 numbers.
- 1 6. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the list is multi-dimensional.
- 1 7. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the helper character-generator renders a helper
2 character comprising at least one of the following: audio feedback, video feedback, tactile
3 feedback.
- 1 8. In a data processing environment, a method for enabling a user to scroll through an
2 ordered list in a data array accessible through a data processing device, the method
3 comprising:

4 enabling the user to scroll through the list, in response to the user actuating the data
5 processing device; and
6 generating a helper character representative of a portion of the list being scrolled; .

1 9. The method of claim 8, wherein the data processing environment comprises a
2 distributed environment.

1 10. Software for being installed on an information processing apparatus, wherein
2 the software renders the apparatus operative to display a helper character representative of a
3 portion of an ordered list currently being scrolled in response to a user interacting with the
4 apparatus.

1 11. A service supplied in a client-server configuration, wherein:
2 the server provides user-access to an ordered list of information items; and
3 the client is enabled to interact with the server, the server controlling the client to
4 display a helper character representative of a portion of the list currently being scrolled at the
5 client.

1 12. The network service of claim 11,
2 wherein, the client comprises at least one of the following: a handheld device, a
3 desktop computer, a laptop computer, a wireless telephone handset, a portable media-
4 playing device, cell phone.

1 13. An information storage medium comprising:
2 an ordered list of content information items;
3 at least one respective helper character corresponding with a respective one of the
4 items; and
5 control software for controlling a rendering of a specific one of the helper characters
6 during the scrolling of the corresponding one of the items

1 14. The information storage medium of claim 14 wherein the ordered list comprises at
2 least one of the following: a sequence of alpha-numeric characters, a sequence of
3 pictographs, a sequence of images, a sequence of sounds.

1 15. The information storage medium of claim 14 wherein the rendering of a specific one
2 of the helper characters comprises at least one of the following: audio feedback, video
3 feedback, tactile feedback.